

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 24, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 through line 6 with:

The first and the second receiving transponder $RxT_1(\lambda_x)$, $RxT_1(\lambda_y)$ are optically coupled to the external ring 2 by means of the first OADM 4 and are adapted to receive signals at wavelength λ_x and, respectively, λ_y ; the third and the fourth receiving transponder ~~$RxT_2(\lambda_x)$~~ $RxT_2(\lambda_x)$, $RxT_2(\lambda_y)$ are optically coupled to the internal ring 3 by means of the second OADM 5 and are adapted to receive signals at wavelength λ_x and, respectively, λ_y .